

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A photovoltaic device, the device comprising:
 - a first layer comprising a first semiconductor material comprising a first conductivity type;
 - a second layer comprising a second semiconductor material of a second opposite conductivity type, wherein the second conductivity type is opposite the first conductivity type; and
 - a third layer comprising a third semiconductor material, wherein the third layer is situated between the first layer and the second layer, wherein the third layer comprises a porous layer, wherein the third layer comprises a translucent layer, and wherein the third layer comprises a diffusion barrier.
2. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer comprises a thickness of from about 1 nm to about 50 nm.
3. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the photovoltaic device comprises a device selected from the group consisting of a photodiode, a photoresistor, and a solar cell.
4. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material, the second semiconductor material, and the third semiconductor material comprise a same semiconductor material.
5. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material, the second semiconductor material, and the third semiconductor material comprise a same element or a same combination of elements.
6. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material, the second semiconductor material, and the third semiconductor material are selected from the group consisting of Si, Ge, and GaAs.
7. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material, the second semiconductor material, and the third semiconductor material comprise silicon.

Appl. No. : 10/658,114
Filed : September 8, 2003

8. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the second semiconductor material and the third semiconductor material comprise a same semiconductor material.

9. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the second semiconductor material and the third semiconductor material comprise a same element or a same combination of elements.

10. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the second semiconductor material and the third semiconductor material are selected from the group consisting of Si, Ge, and GaAs.

11. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material and the third semiconductor material comprise a same semiconductor material.

12. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material and the third semiconductor material comprise a same element or a same combination of elements.

13. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material and the third semiconductor material are selected from the group consisting of Si, Ge, and GaAs.

14. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material and the second semiconductor material comprise a same semiconductor material.

15. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material and the second semiconductor material comprise a same element or a same combination of elements.

16. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material and the second semiconductor material are selected from the group consisting of Si, Ge, and GaAs.

17. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third semiconductor material comprises a non-doped semiconductor material.

18. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third semiconductor material comprises a crystalline semiconductor material.

19. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a multicrystalline semiconductor material and a monocrystalline semiconductor material.

20. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the second layer comprises a crystalline semiconductor material.

21. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the second layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a monocrystalline semiconductor material and a multicrystalline semiconductor material.

22. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the first layer comprises a thickness of from about 3 nm to about 100 nm.

23. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, further comprising an amorphous silicon layer, wherein the amorphous silicon layer is situated between the first layer and the third layer.

24. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, further comprising a fourth layer, wherein the second layer is attached to the fourth layer, wherein the fourth layer comprises a porous layer comprising a fourth semiconductor material, and wherein the fourth semiconductor material comprises non-doped crystalline silicon semiconductor material.

25. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 24, further comprising a fifth layer, wherein the fourth layer is attached to the fifth layer, wherein the fourth layer and the fifth layer comprise a same conductivity type, and wherein the fifth layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of amorphous silicon semiconductor material, nanocrystalline semiconductor material, and microcrystalline silicon semiconductor material.

26. (Original) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the second layer comprises a plurality of macro etch pits comprising a diameter of greater than about one micron, and wherein a portion of the macro etch pits comprise a plurality of fine etch pits comprising a diameter of less than about one micron.

27-36. (Canceled)

37. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer comprises a porous semiconductor material comprising a semiconductor material and voids, wherein a percentage of a total volume occupied by voids is from 10% to 85%.

38. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer consists of a porous non-doped silicon semiconductor material selected from the group consisting of a monocrystalline silicon semiconductor material and a multicrystalline silicon semiconductor material.

39. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the second layer comprises a multicrystalline silicon semiconductor materials of p-type conductivity, the first layer comprises an amorphous silicon semiconductor material of n-type conductivity, and the third layer consists of a porous non-doped silicon semiconductor material comprising a multicrystalline semiconductor situated between the first layer and the second layer.

40. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer consists of a porous layer.

41. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer consists of a translucent layer.

42. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer consists of a porous translucent layer that acts as a diffusion barrier.

43. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer consists of a porous translucent layer that acts as a diffusion barrier, wherein the third layer has a thickness of from about 1 nm to about 50 nm.

44. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the first layer is from about 3 nm to about 100 nm, and wherein a thickness of the third layer is from about 1 nm to about 50 nm.

45. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer comprises a porous layer of high transparency.

46. (New) The photovoltaic device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer consists of a transparent porous layer.